Suffolk County Shellfish Aquaculture Lease Program in Peconic Bay & Gardiners Bay



Steven Bellone County Executive

Department of Economic Development and Planning
Informational Meeting for Prospective Lease Applicants – February 3, 2022



Suffolk County Department of Economic Development & Planning

- Commissioner
- Chief Deputy Commissioner
- Deputy Commissioner

- -Natalie Wright
- -Chris Gonzalez
- -Elisa Picca

Division of Planning & Environment

- Director of Planning
- Senior Environmental Analyst
- Environmental Planner
- Principal Clerk

- -Sarah Lansdale
- -Susan Filipowich
- -Thomas Ralicky
- -Barbara J. DelGiudice



Zoom Webinar Procedures



Lease Program Authority as per NYS ECL, Art. 13, Title 3 §13-0302



County of Suffolk

- Authorizes access to underwater lands for cultivation of shellfish in Peconic and Gardiners Bays (excludes cultivation of oyster only on privately owned oyster grants).
- Controls the location of shellfish farms, size of lease and number of leases.



NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation

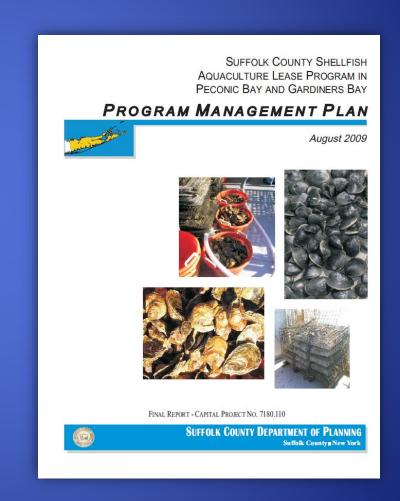
- Regulates all aspects of shellfish cultivation that occur on Suffolk County leases.
- Issues required on/off-bottom culture permits & bed permits.

Recent Developments

- Amendment to NYS ECL, Art. 13, Title 3 §13-0302 Lands underwater of Gardiner's and Peconic Bays.
 - 1. Underwater lands ceded to county of Suffolk. All the right, title and interest in which the people of the state of New York have in and to the lands under water of Gardiner's and Peconic bays in the county of Suffolk, except underwater lands within one thousand feet of the high water mark is hereby ceded to such county, for the purposes of shellfish *or kelp* cultivation, to be managed and controlled by such county....
- This meeting is for Prospective Lease Applicants that wish to obtain a lease for shellfish cultivation.
- Meeting regarding commercial kelp cultivation to be held at a later date.

Adoption of the Lease Program

- Local Law No. 25-2009
- Chapter 475, Article II of the Suffolk County Code
 - Formally accepted all rights, title and interest to the area in question for the purpose of shellfish cultivation.
 - Formally established program requirements and administrative procedures.
 - Adopted the Shellfish Cultivation Zone.



Lease Program Requirements

- Leases from Suffolk County are required for:
 - Authorized use of the bay bottom;
 - The cultivation of any type of shellfish in Peconic Bay and Gardiners Bay (excluding Private Oyster Grant owners that cultivate oysters only).



Lease Program: Phase I (2010 to 2019)

- Acreage Cap Limit: 600 ac. over 10 years
 - Cap of 60 acres of "new" leases per year.
 - Lease acreage from former
 TMAUAs (Cycle #1) and
 leases on oyster grants were
 not counted against the Cap.
- Unallocated and/or reclaimed acreage carried over from year to year.

- Nine Lease Application Cycles Conducted
- Current Status: 53 leases on a total of 770 ac.
 - 48 Leases on 10-acre lease sites = 480 ac.
 - One Lease on 5-acre lease site = 5 ac.
 - Four Leases on private oyster grants = 285 ac.

Ten Year Review Project

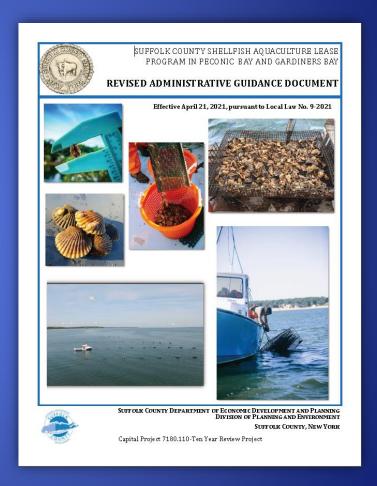
- Required per Suffolk County Code & NYS Environmental Conservation Law:
 - Review Shellfish Cultivation Zone and Aquaculture Lease Sites Maps.
 - Review Lease Program requirements and administrative procedures.
 - Review lease issuance during Phase I; develop and adopt limits on lease issuance during Phase II.
 - Suffolk County Legislature must adopt all changes.

Ten Year Review Project

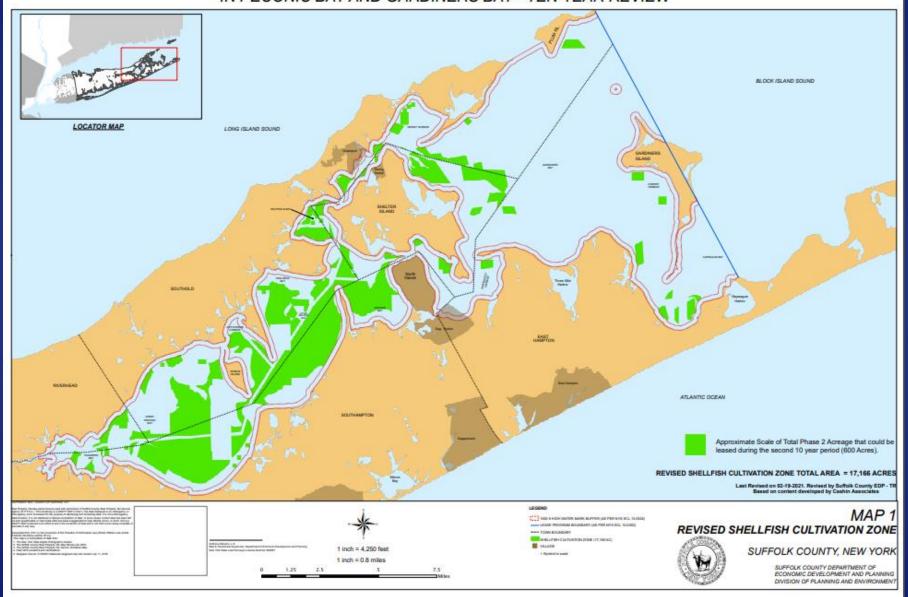
- Capital Project No. 7180.110:Aquaculture Leasing Program Funding secured 12/6/16
 - Ten Year Review Project
- Cashin Associates, P.C., Hauppauge, NY
 - Contract Executed 06 /18/18
- Ten Year Review Advisory Group Established
 - Nine Public Meetings conducted between 11/14/18 to 1/15/21
- Additional Public Outreach
 - Informational Meetings in each of the Five East End Towns
 - Four Focus Group Meetings

Lease Program Amendments

- Local Law No. 9-2021
- Amended Chapter 475, Article II of the Suffolk County Code
 - Amended program requirements and administrative procedures.
 - Adopted the Revised Administrative Guidance (RAG) document.
 - Adopted Phase II Acreage Cap Limit
 - 600 acres during 10 year period
 - Adopted Revised Shellfish Cultivation Zone.
 - 17,166 acres



SUFFOLK COUNTY SHELLFISH AQUACULTURE LEASE PROGRAM IN PECONIC BAY AND GARDINERS BAY - TEN YEAR REVIEW



Revised Aquaculture Lease Sites Map

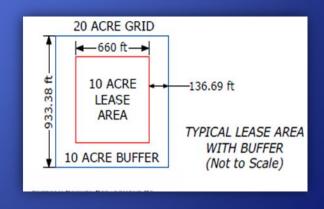
Revised Shellfish Cultivation Zone: 17,166 ac.

Consists of the following:

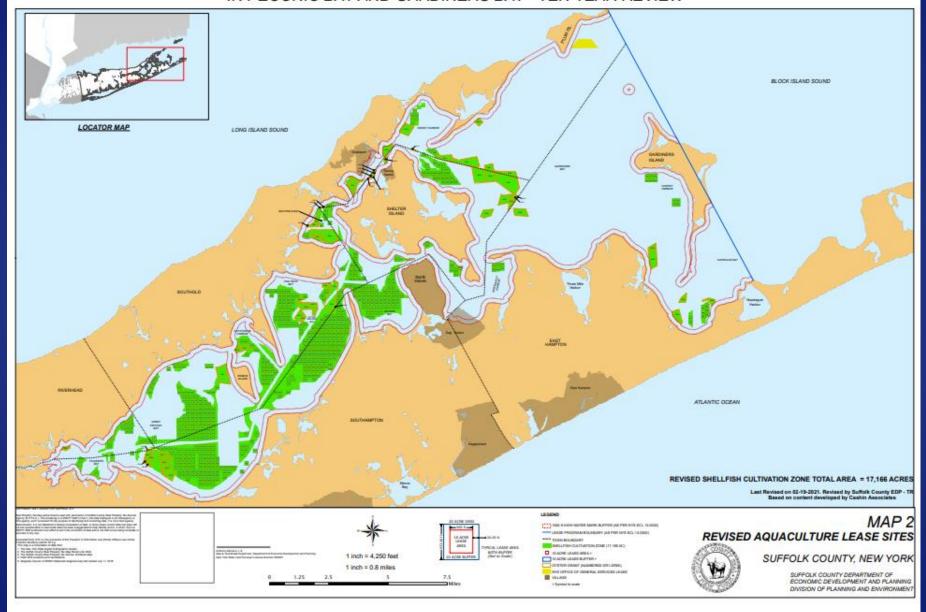
- 61 private oyster grants (outside 1,000 ft. buffer)

- 601 10-ac lease sites (with 10-acre buffer)





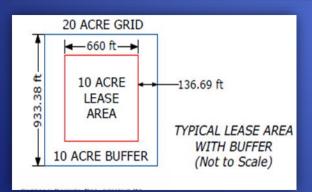
SUFFOLK COUNTY SHELLFISH AQUACULTURE LEASE PROGRAM IN PECONIC BAY AND GARDINERS BAY - TEN YEAR REVIEW

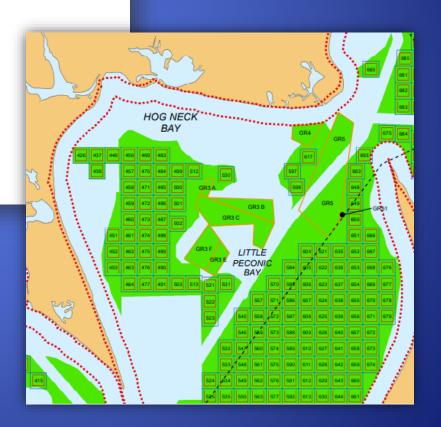


Aquaculture Lease Sites Map

LEGEND

- 1000 ft HIGH WATER MARK BUFFER (AS PER NYS ECL 13-0302)
- LEASE PROGRAM BOUNDARY (AS PER NYS ECL 13-0302)
- TOWN BOUNDARY
- SHELLFISH CULTIVATION ZONE (17,166 AC)
- 10 ACRE LEASE AREA +
- 10 ACRE LEASE BUFFER +
 - OYSTER GRANT (NUMBERED GR1-GR65)
- NYS OFFICE OF GENERAL SERVICES LEASE
- VILLAGE
 - + Symbol to scale





Lease Program: Phase II (2021 to 2030)

Number of Leases Permitted:

- Leaseholders are limited to two leases at any one time.
- Applicants may only submit one application per Lease Application Cycle (not applicable to oyster grant owners that own more than one grant).
- Leaseholders may only apply for a second lease site location if they can meet the eligibility requirements and document need for second lease.

Private Oyster Grant Owners:

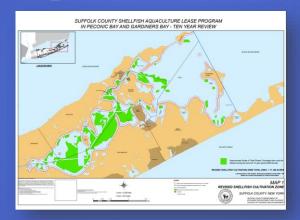
- Oyster grant owners that wish to cultivate species other than oyster must obtain a lease from the County.
- Owners of oyster grants may apply for lease on entire grant.
 - Area where additional species other than oysters may be cultivated will be determined by respective regulatory agencies

Lease Program: Phase II (2021 to 2030)

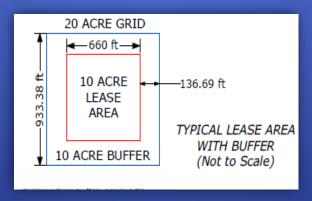
- Lease Acreage Cap Limit: 600 acres during Phase II (10 years)
 - Cap of 60 acres of "new" leases per year.
 - Leases on oyster grants do not count against the Acreage Cap.
 - Unallocated and/or reclaimed acreage carried over from year to year.
- Lease Acreage Available for 2022 Lease Cycle: 120 acres
 - 2021 Acreage Cap (60 acres)
 - 2022 Acreage Cap (60 acres)
- Legacy Acreage Available during 2022 Lease Cycle: <u>50 acres</u>
 - Unallocated and/or reclaimed acreage from Phase I Acreage Cap.
 - Available to existing leaseholders for second lease site locations.

Lease Program Requirements and Procedures for New Lease Applicants

- Applicants must apply for:
 - Site w/in the adopted Shellfish Cultivation Zone.

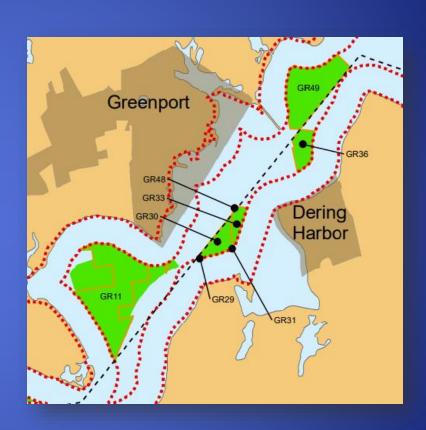


• 10- acre square lease with 10-acre buffer.



Lease Program Requirements and Procedures for Oyster Grants

- Cultivation of Oysters Only
 No Lease required.
- No title conflicts.
- Must be located seaward of 1,000 ft. from mean high water.
- Owners of multiple oyster grants may apply for a lease on one or all of their parcels.



Lease overlays on oyster grants do not count towards the acreage cap limit.

Lease Program Requirements and Procedures for Existing Leaseholders

- Applications for Lease Site Relocations and Second Lease Site Locations are at the discretion of the Department.
- Provided the Department is accepting applications for Lease Site Relocations and/or Second Lease Site Locations, these applications shall be considered during the Annual Lease Application Cycle.
 - The Department may consider applications for relocation on an emergency basis.







Lease Program Requirements and Procedures for Existing Leaseholders

Lease Site Relocation

- Leaseholders may apply to relocate their shellfish farming operation from the existing lease site location to a new/available lease site location up to two (2) times during the Term of the Lease.
- Leaseholders applying to relocate shall be subject to the lease applicant eligibility criteria outlined in Section 3.1 of the RAG.
- Applications Lease site for relocation are subject to 60-day public comment period and approval by the Aquaculture Lease Board.
- Applications for lease site relocations will not be subject to the annual acreage cap limit.

Lease Program Requirements and Procedures for Existing Leaseholders

Second Lease Site Location

- Leaseholders must be able to document their compliance with the Substantial Shellfish Aquaculture Activity requirements as defined by Section 4.6 of the RAG; and demonstrate production/harvest of shellfish at their current lease site for three consecutive years.
- Leaseholders must also be able to demonstrate and document their need for a second lease site location in the required Shellfish Cultivation Plan and Aquaculture Business Plan.
- Leaseholders applying to relocate shall be subject to the lease applicant eligibility criteria outlined in Section 3.1 of the RAG.
- Applications for second lease site locations shall be subject to 60-day public comment period and approval by the Aquaculture Lease Board.

Eligibility Requirements:

- 18 years of age (photo documentation with date of birth).
- Social Security Number.
- Not convicted of significant or repeated criminal or administrative violations of the Environmental Conservation Law.

Applicants must also satisfy any <u>one</u> of the following requirements:

- Course of study in shellfish aquaculture, marine science, or related disciplines; technical training program.
- Two or more years of shellfish aquaculture experience either as an employee or apprentice to a shellfish farmer.
- Prior experience as commercial baymen or shellfishman (three years or more).

Pre-Application Meeting

- During the established lease application period, prior to submitting an application, applicants may schedule and participate in a pre-application meeting.
- Applications will not be accepted without the prior completion of the pre-application meeting requirement.

Submission of Applications

- Applications must be submitted to the Dept. during the period established by the County.
- Please do not drop off applications.
- Submittal of complete application with supporting documents, fees, etc.
- Late submissions shall be returned to the applicant.

Shellfish Aquaculture Lease Application:

• Applicants applying for 10-ac lease may propose three lease site locations in the application.

Please list proposed lease sites in priority order:					
Lease Sites Map ID#	Proposed Site Location:				
	(Town)	(Water body)			
1.					
2.					
3.					

- Applicants will only be issued a lease for one proposed lease site approved by the ALB.
- Applicants must submit a Shellfish Cultivation Plan
- Applicants must submit a Aquaculture Business Plan
- Applicants applying as a Corp, LLC, or partnership must complete and submit Part V of the application.

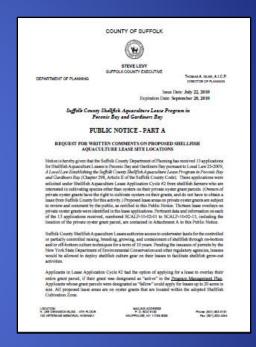
Close of Lease Application Period

- Dept. Staff will process applications and verify applicant eligibility.
- If the aggregate acreage in "new" lease applications exceeds the acreage available; staff will conduct a Random Selection Process.

Random Selection Process (RSP)

- RSP consists of a double blind drawing conducted in a public setting.
- Results of RSP will establish a priority order to determine which of the eligible lease applicants will proceed in the application process.
- RSP may also be used at a future date, if two applicants are seeking the same lease site location.

- Public Notice.
- Issuance and Posting.
- 60-Day Public Comment Period.
- Staff reviews and processes comments.



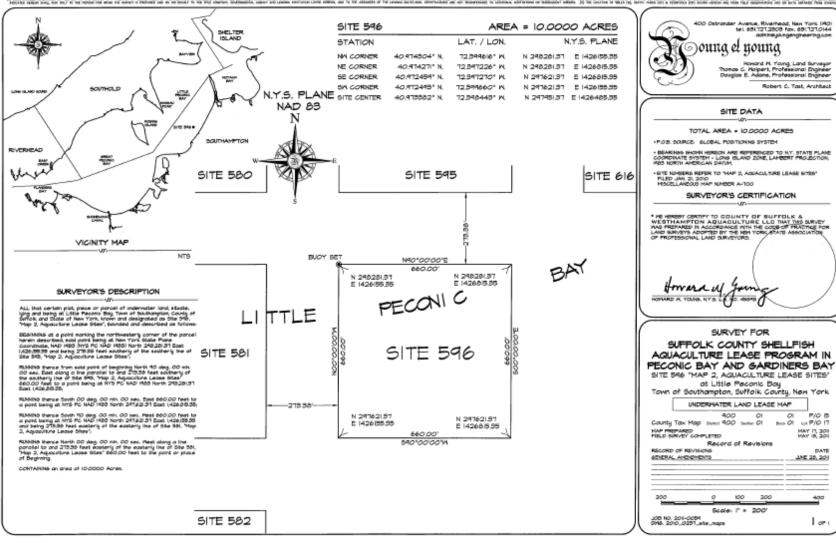
• Applicants shall be notified of all comments received that relate to their application or proposed lease sites.

Aquaculture Lease Board (ALB) Meeting

- Lease applications and proposed lease sites are presented to the ALB.
- Comments received during the 60-day public comment period are presented to the ALB.
- ALB determines by majority vote to approve or disapprove proposed lease sites under a given cycle.
 - Disapproval by the ALB does not eliminate the site from the Shellfish Cultivation Zone.
- The Department will notify applicants of the ALB's approval or disapproval of their proposed lease sites.

Lease Site Boundary Survey

- Applicants will select ONE proposed lease site that was approved by the ALB.
- Dept. staff will send respective coordinate information and boundary survey specifications to the applicant.
- Applicants are responsible for the procurement of a licensed land surveyor and cost of their lease site boundary survey.
- Applicants have six (6) months from the date of the Departmental notification to submit the required lease site boundary survey maps to the Department for attachment to the respective Shellfish Aquaculture Lease Agreement.
 - Failure to submit the required survey maps shall result in the termination of the application and discontinuance of the application process.



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PLOTTED BY: Glono

Lease Site Marking Requirements

- Marker buoys specifications:
 - 6th Class Buoy with three foot surface expression.
 - Buoys must be:
 - Yellow
 - Radar Reflective
 - Reflective Tape
- Leaseholders must obtain Private Aids to Navigation (PATON) permit from the US Coast Guard before deploying marker buoys.
- Marker buoys must have SCALP Lease Sites Map ID #.
 - NYSDEC off-bottom culture (OBC) permit # may also be included on marker buoys.
- Leaseholder must contact NOAA to initiate chart and coastal pilot corrections.

- All applicants must have executed a Shellfish Aquaculture Lease Agreement prior to deploying any gear/equipment or conducting any shellfish aquaculture activities at an approved lease site location.
- All leaseholders must comply with all applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations, including but, not limited to, those relating to navigation.
- All leaseholders must obtain all necessary regulatory permits prior to the commencement of aquaculture activities at lease site.











NYSDEC Division of Marine Resources

- Applicants will have six months from the date departmental notification to submit the applicable permit applications to all required regulatory agencies.
 - Applicants must submit copies of their permit applications to the County to document compliance of this program requirement.
- Failure to submit permit applications to the regulatory agencies and County during the established six month period shall be cause for termination of lease by.
- Applicants must submit copies of the of all permits and/or authorization issued by the respective regulatory agency.

Lease Preparation and Execution

- Upon receipt of the lease site boundary survey maps, staff will prepare a draft Lease Agreement.
- A letter will be sent to the applicant, along with the draft lease agreement for their review prior to signing their lease.
- Applicants will have forty-five (45) days from the date of that letter to contact the Dept., schedule a lease signing appointment and sign their lease documents.
 - Failure to sign the required lease documents within the 45-day time period may result in termination of the application.

Shelifeh Aquacultur Lease Agreement 200 190 190 190 190 190 190 190 190 190 1
Shellfish Aquaculture Lease Agreement
Thi: Agreement ("Agreement") in between the County of Suffolk ("County"), a municipal copporation of the State of New York, acting through its day constituted Department of Hanning ("Department"), acceded a 100 Verenan Jeanconal Highway, Hanpsunge, New York 11785
and
Lease Holders Name ("Leasee"), having its principal place of business at Lease Holders Address
The Lessee desines to lease underwater lands in Peconic Bay and Gardiners Bay from the County for the purpose of conducting Shellfish Cultivation under the Suffolk County Shellfish Agusculture Lesser Pergaran in Peconic Bay and Gardiners Bay.
Term of Agreement: 100 through 100 throug
Annual Rental Fee for Each Year of the Ten Year Lease Agreement: e.g.,\$250.00
Terms and Conditions: Shall be as set forth in Exhibits A through D attached hereto and made a part hereof.
In Witness Whereof, the parties hereto have executed this Agreement as of the latest date written below.

 Upon execution of the Lease by the County, the lease shall be recorded in the Suffolk Clerk's office.

Lease Program Fee Schedule

	Non Commercial 10-Acre Lease	Commercial 10-Acre Lease	Commercial Lease on Oyster Grant
Term	Case-by-case basis	10 Years; option to renew for an additional 10 years at the County's discretion	10 Years; option to renew for an additional 10 years at the County's discretion
Application Fee:	\$150.00 (Non-refundable)	\$150.00 (Non-refundable)	\$150.00 (Non-refundable)
Rental Fee: Years 1 thru 3	• \$100 per lease	 \$200 plus \$5 per acre \$100 per 10-acre lease for US Veterans residing in Suffolk County \$250 plus \$25 per acre for individuals or entities not residents of Suffolk County 	• \$200 per oyster grant
Rental Fee: Years 4 and 5	• \$200 per lease	 \$250 plus \$25 per acre \$250 per 10-acre lease for US Veterans residing in Suffolk County \$450 plus \$25 per acre for individuals or entities not residents of Suffolk County 	• \$250 per oyster grant
Rental Fee: Years 6 thru 10	• \$300 per Lease	 \$300 plus \$45 per acre \$300 per 10-acre lease for US Veterans residing in Suffolk County \$600 plus \$90 per acre for individuals or entities not residents of Suffolk County 	• \$300 per oyster grant

- First Annual Rental Fee payment due upon signing of the lease by the applicant.
- Subsequent Annual Lease Rental Fee payments are due thirty (30) days prior to lease anniversary date.

The following items must be submitted each year you retain lease with the County:

- Leaseholder Annual Report Form
 - Documentation of Substantial Shellfish Aquaculture Activity
- Annual Lease Rental Fee Payment
- SC Form 22, Contractor/Vendor's Public Disclosure Statement
- Copies of all received regulatory permits or applications if waiting for permits.



SUFFOLK COUNTY SHELLFISH AQUACULTURE LEASE PROGRAM LEASEHOLDER ANNUAL REPORT FORM

All leaseholders are required to report their shellfish farming activities to the County on an annual basis. Each leaseholder is required to submit a Leaseholder Annual Report to the Department and Economic Development and Planning, Division of Planning & Environment (Department) each year that they retain their lease with the County. All aquaculture activities that were conducted during the period of to should be reported on this form. If no shellfish aquaculture activities were undertaken this year, leaseholders must also indicate the same on this form and explain why no activities took place on or off (e.g., submittal of permit applications, purchase of equipment/seed/gear, etc.) the lease site. If permit modifications have been applied for and/or obtained that alter shellfish cultivation activities (e.g., type of cultivation method, species cultivated, gear type, etc.) from the previous year, please make note of these changes on this form and submit copies of permits to the Department. This annual report should also include information regarding activities conducted on any sublease involving the leased premise (if applicable).

This form, along with the annual lease rental fee and SC Form 22 (Contractor's/Vendor's Public Disclosure Statement), are due 30 days before the lease anniversary date or expiration of lease. Leaseholders are also required to submit this reporting form along with applications for lease renewal, relocation, assignment, or sublease (if applicable).

Annual Lease Rental Fee: \$____ (Pays for _____ to ____ to

Checks or money orders should be made payable to the **Suffolk County Comptroller**. Please include your Lease Site Number on the memo line of the check/money order.

Mailing Instructions:

Leaseholders must submit the completed Leaseholder Annual Report Form and SC Form 22; annual lease rental fee payment and a copy of their regulatory permits to the Suffolk County Division of Planning & Environment at the address below. All forms and fee should be mailed together.

SUFFOLK COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & PLANNING DIVISION OF PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT P.O. Box 6100
H. Lee Dennison Bldg. – 11th Floor

Hauppauge, NY 11788-0099 ATTN: Mr. Thomas Ralicky

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LR: 21.11.10.22.

Lease Application Process Timeline

Proposed Timeline for 2022 Lease Application Cycle

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Application Steps	February 2022	March 2022	April 2022	May 2022	June 2022	July 2022	August 2022	September 2022	October 2022	November 2022	December 2022	January 2823	February 2023
Informational Meeting													
			'		'	'	'	•			'	•	4
Schedule Pre-Application Meetings													
•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Pre-application Meetings													
Submission of Applications													
EDP Process Applications													
EDP Conduct RSP (if applicable)													
60 - Day Public Notice Period													
ALB Meeting(s)													
	_							_					
Applicant Notification													
										•			
Berthic Clam Survey (if required)													
Lease Site Boundary Survey Submittal and Start Regulatory Permit Appliction Process								Six months fr				requirement	:5
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								Survey Maps submitted to EDP					
Prepare and Execute Lease								IDF prepare a			t has 45 days to	sign Leane doo	25
Action Required by Applicant								1	2	3	4	5	6
de abbuman								-	•		-		

2022 Lease Application Cycle

- Lease Application Period:
 - March 7, 2022- April 29, 2022
 - Applicants must schedule and attend a preapplication meeting with Dept. staff *prior* to submitting an application.
 - Starting on Wednesday, February 16, 2022 we will start accepting pre-application meeting appointments.



 All applications must be post marked by Friday, April 29, 2022

Scheduling Pre-Application Meetings

• Please call Ms. Barbara DelGiudice of the Division of Planning and Environment at 631-853-5111 to schedule a pre-application meeting.

• Applications will not be accepted without first having participated in a pre-application meeting.



Information

Program Overview

Shellfish Aquaculture Laws

Prospective Lease Applicants

Applications and Forms

Program Documents

Progam Maps

Inventory of Current Leases

Aquaculture Lease Board

Permit Information & Other Resources

Program Development (2005-2009)

Program Review

FAOs

Sections

Restoration Projects

Shellfish Aquaculture Lease Program

Units

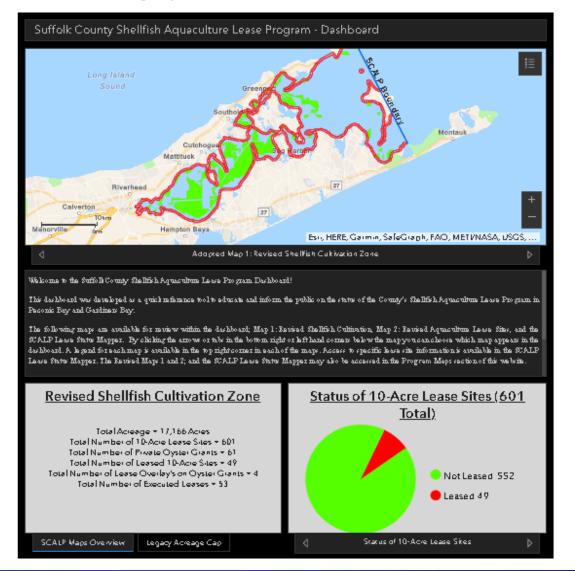
Cartography and GIS

Regulatory Review

Research and Statistics

Suffolk County Shellfish Aquaculture Lease Program in Peconic Bay & Gardiners Bay

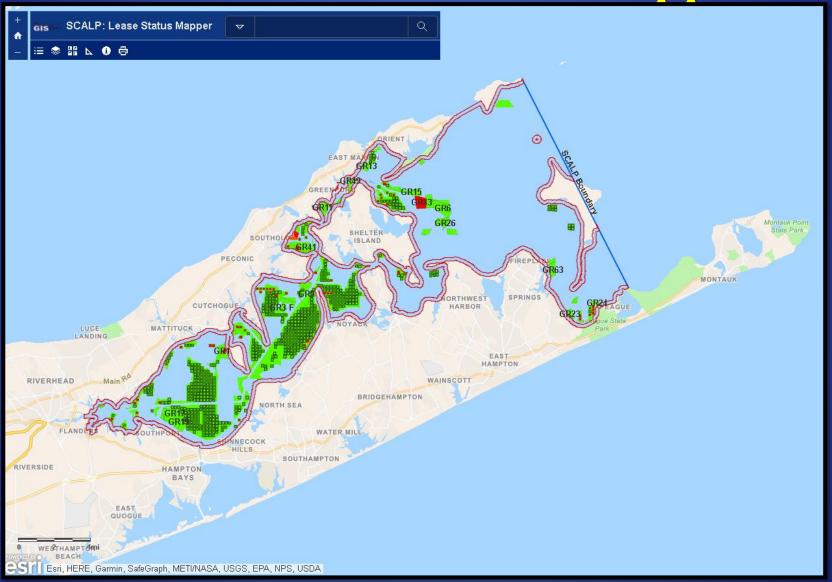
Welcome to the Suffolk County Division of Planning & Environment's Shellfish Aquaculture Lease Program Website. This website and the Lease Program Dashboard have been developed to help the general public, leaseholders and prospective lease applicants navigate the Suffolk County Aquaculture Lease Program (SCALP). We look forward to working with you!



SCALP: Program Website Overview

https://www.suffolkcountyny.gov/Departments/Economic-Development-and-Planning/Planning-and-Environment/Environmental-Planning-and-Aquaculture/Shellfish-Aquaculture-Lease-Program

SCALP: Lease Status Mapper







Pending Unavailable



Proposed

SCALP: Lease Status Mapper

SCALP Lease Status Mapper Link:

https://gis.suffolkcountyny.gov/portal/apps/View/index.html?appid=6ae708a346f340ada 850544fe25ce0fb



If you have any issues using the mapper or have questions please contact me at:

631-853-4865 or thomas.Ralicky@suffolkcountyny.gov

2022 Lease Application Cycle Application Period



"New" Lease Acreage Available: 120 acres (12 10-acre leases)

Legacy Lease Acreage Available: 50 acres (five 10-acre leases)

Contact Information

- Division of Planning and Environment
 - Sarah Lansdale
 - Director of Planning
 - sarah.lansdale@suffolkcountyny.gov
 - Susan Filipowich
 - Senior Environmental Analyst
 - susan.filipowich@suffolkcountyny.gov
 - Thomas Ralicky
 - Environmental Planner
 - thomas.ralicky@suffolkcountyny.gov